

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

October 9, 2003

For immediate release

- 1. Public input requested at regional water quality meetings**
- 2. Sanitary district quick to respond to bypass near Iowa Great Lakes**
- 3. DNR enforcement actions**

PUBLIC INPUT REQUESTED AT REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MEETINGS

DES MOINES — The DNR is looking to Iowans to help determine solutions to water quality issues at public meetings around the state this month.

The meetings will address general water quality issues, nutrients and Iowa's impaired waters. Each meeting will highlight a local water quality project.

An open, public discussion of Iowa water quality issues will take place after the presentation by DNR staff. Input and ideas from the public at these meetings will be used at the Iowa Water Summit on Nov. 24 in Ames.

Governor Tom Vilsack has listed water quality as one of his top priorities. The governor's Iowa Water Summit is an unprecedented commitment to address impaired waters.

"At the first two meetings, the public has identified the need to discuss a number of issues including funding, local action, nutrient water quality standards and nutrient management," said Bernie Hoyer, special assistant to the director of the DNR. "The meetings are designed to raise awareness and generate ideas that can help improve water quality."

The remaining six meetings are scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the following locations and dates:

October 14, 2003

Des Moines Area Community College

2006 South Ankeny Blvd
Ankeny, IA 50021-3993
Auditorium

October 16, 2003

Rathbun Regional Water Association
16166 HWY J29
Centerville, IA 52544-8307
Water Treatment Plant

October 21, 2003

Southwestern Community College
1501 W. Townline
Creston IA 50801
Room 220

October 22, 2003

North Iowa Area Community College
500 College Drive
Mason City, IA 50401-7299
Muse Norris Center Room 180C

October 23, 2003

Western Iowa Technical College
4647 Stone Avenue
PO Box 5199
Sioux City IA 51106
Building A, Room 920, Large Lecture Hall

October 30, 2003

Iowa Lakes Community College
2021 Main Street
Emmettsburg, IA 50536
Auditorium

The general agenda for each session:

6:30 PM Status of Water Quality and Water Quality Trends in Iowa
6:50 PM Iowa's Nutrient Budget and Nutrients in Iowa's Waters
7:10 PM Iowa's Impaired Waters
7:30 PM Break
7:40 PM Local Water Quality Program
8:00 PM Public Participation
9:00 PM Adjourn

Those unable to attend the meetings or with further comments or questions can contact water.summit@dnr.state.ia.us.

Media questions or comments should be directed to Bernie Hoyer (515) 281-7247 or Bernie.Hoyer@dnr.state.ia.us.

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SANITARY DISTRICT QUICK TO RESPOND TO BYPASS NEAR IOWA GREAT LAKES

MILFORD — A power failure Monday caused 5,000 gallons of wastewater to bypass from a lift station in the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District collection system. An unknown amount of sewage entered Mill Creek, a tributary to the Little Sioux River, near Milford.

“The sanitary district was instrumental in minimizing the volume and duration of the bypass,” said Neil Cook, senior DNR environmental specialist in the Spencer field office.

The Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District had a portable generator running at the lift station 30 minutes after receiving an alarm from the lift station.

No fish kill or danger to drinking water is expected.

For more information, contact Neil Cook at 712-262-4177.

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DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- Joel (Brad) Chambers of Strawberry Point was notified that the DNR intends to revoke his Grade 1L Wastewater Treatment Operator Certificate and his Public Water system Certificate with Grade 2 water/ Grade 2 water distribution until Sept. 1, 2005. Chambers was also ordered to pay a \$1,000 penalty.
- The City of Strawberry Point was ordered to comply with the compliance schedule for wastewater facility improvements, comply with wastewater monitoring and reporting requirements, to report all planned discharges, to comply with effluent

limits, to maintain and operate all facilities in working order and to pay a \$10,000 penalty.

- Sigourney Foods, of Sigourney, was ordered to cease unauthorized discharges of pollutants into waters of the state and to comply with all requirements of its NPDES permit and its construction permit. The company was also ordered to comply with its annual nitrogen land application rate, to submit all operation reports timely with all required information, and to pay a \$10,000 penalty.
- The City of Westside was ordered to properly operate and maintain its wastewater collection and treatment facilities and to comply with its schedule of compliance.
- Country Living Mobile Home Park of Altoona was ordered to comply with a schedule for the upgrade of wastewater treatment facilities serving the park and to pay a \$5,000 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- The Welco Group, David Levin, and Kwik Trip, Inc. of Camanche, were ordered to permanently close underground storage tanks, complete a soil and groundwater investigation of the tank site, and submit a tank closure report to the DNR. They were also ordered to pay \$780 in delinquent tank management fees and to pay a penalty of \$3,500. The order has been appealed.
- Edward Rasch and Easter Enterprises, Inc., of Cherokee, were ordered to complete a Revised Tier 2 site assessment, conduct free product removal and submit reports monthly to the DNR. Rasch was ordered to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- Southeast Iowa Multi-County Solid Waste Agency, of Keokuk County, was ordered to comply with permit rules, statutes and administrative rules, for solid waste violations, and to pay a \$4,000 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- Lewis Hartgers of Jasper County was ordered to stop open burning of combustible materials and cease illegal disposal of solid waste. Hartgers was also ordered to submit a Pollution Prevention Plan to the DNR and comply with it, verify to the DNR proper disposal of all waste tires on the property, provide a plan to the DNR for future waste tire disposal and pay a \$3,000 penalty.
- Griffin Pipe Products Company, of Council Bluffs, was ordered to comply with a compliance plan to reduce the risk of future excess emission episodes and to comply with all DNR compliance plans. The company was also ordered to maintain and operate equipment as to minimize emissions, to make timely reports of excess emissions episodes, to comply with the conditions of construction and operating permits, and to pay a \$10,000 penalty.
- Custom Feeds, Inc., of Muscatine, was ordered to stop burning of combustible material, remove and properly dispose of all remaining solid waste at its facility, and

submit all disposal receipts to the DNR following removal. The company was also ordered to maintain and operate equipment as to minimize emissions, comply with record-keeping provisions of its construction permits, comply with asbestos NESHAP requirements in the future and pay a \$10,000 penalty.

- Heartland Pork Enterprises, Inc. d.b.a. Quality Ag Builders, of Alden, was ordered to comply with all storm water permit requirements and pay a \$500 penalty. The penalty has been paid.
- D & S Swine, L.L.C., of Humboldt County, was ordered to comply with all storm water requirements and pay a \$1,000 penalty.
- Holstein Dairy, L.L.P., of Ida County, was ordered to submit an updated manure management plan and annual compliance fee, and to pay a penalty of \$750.
- KL & L, of Palo Alto County, was ordered to submit an updated manure management plan and annual compliance fee, and to pay a penalty of \$750.

For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at 515-281-5131.